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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2002

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE
THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Sezer: The headscarf cannot be accepted in public places -
Hurriyet
Cyprus issue in deadlock - Sabah
Government urges Denktas to consider UN plan - Milliyet

OPINION MAKERS

The Last word on the headscarf comes from the President -
Cumhuriyet
President Sezer warns Government about headscarf issue -
Zaman
Seven drawbacks of Cyprus Plan - Cumhuriyet
US trains volunteers for possible Iraq operation - Yeni
Safak
US News & World Report: Bush Administration plans a three-
phase administration in Iraq - Radikal
The Government will implement a new economic program - Zaman
NGOs to meet at 'Turkey Platform' in Brussels - Cumhuriyet

FINANCIAL JOURNALS

Business World: Government Program is promising - Dunya

BRIEFING

Headscarf issue: All papers and TV channels give extensive coverage to President Sezer's remarks on the headscarf issue. Sunday's "Milliyet" reports that President Sezer was disturbed by the headscarf of Parliament Speaker Bulent Arinc's wife during protocol ceremonies at Esenboga Airport. Arinc and his wife had gone to see Sezer off to and welcome him back from Prague. Today's papers draw attention to Sezer's harsh warnings on the headscarf issue. In a meeting with a group of teachers in the presidential palace on Sunday, Sezer said that the headscarf cannot be used in public places, that it had been banned in the past, and that a new debate on the issue will only trigger unnecessary controversy and tension. "Cumhuriyet" notes that Sezer emphasized the importance of respect for secular principles. However, today's "Zaman" draws attention to the words of Deputy Prime Minister Mehmet Ali Sahin, who said that the government would resolve the headscarf issue in universities by carrying out certain constitutional amendments.

Cyprus: Today's "Radikal" reports FM Yakis' visit to TRNC president Denktas in New York, during which Yakis reportedly urged Denktas to accept the UN plan as a basis for talks on Cyprus. "Radikal" notes that this is the first pressure exerted on Denktas by Turkey. "Milliyet" reports that Turkey is pressuring Denktas to begin discussions. "Cumhuriyet" draws attention to the remarks of Mumtaz Soysal, a Denktas advisor, that the Turkish side would not reject the UN Cyprus plan but use it as a reference point in direct peace talks. Soysal also draws attention to seven drawbacks of the plan, which are: 1. The new state is founded through constitutional changes, but the Turkish side wants to make an interstate agreement; 2. The Turkish side says that to protect the Turkish Cypriots, the TRNC must be recognized shortly before the signing of an agreement; 3. Security guarantees in the UN document are worse than the

ones in 1960; 4. Greek Cypriots who migrate to the Turkish side will damage political equality; 5. Territorial regulations in the Annan plan are unfair; 6. Demands for exchange of property will create tensions; 7. The maps will create huge security problems.

Iraq: Today's "Radikal," citing US News and World Report, describes a Bush Administration plan for a three-stage administration in a post-Saddam Iraq. In the first stage, Iraq will be administered by a US general for 6-12 months. In the second stage, the authority of Iraqi officials' will increase and the number of the US soldiers will be reduced. This phase will begin after two years. In the third phase, the administration will be passed to a government that will represent all segments of the Iraqi population. "Cumhuriyet," citing the London-based Essark-ul Avsat newspaper, reports that the US is establishing a 'Volunteer Army' against Saddam in Northern Iraq. According to Essark-Ul Avsat, the US has begun training 5,000 volunteers in Northern Iraq. In exchange, the volunteers are being promised 5,000 dollars in cash and a round-trip ticket to the US.

EU: "Turkiye" reports that AKP leader Erdogan will begin a new EU tour today. Starting from Portugal, Erdogan will visit Finland, Sweden, France, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. Meanwhile, representatives of non-governmental organizations are also making preparations for an EU blitz. More than 200 businessmen will go to Brussels for a meeting of the "Turkish Platform," a consortium of NGOs.

EDITORIAL OPINION:
Turkey/Cyprus-EU-ESDI

"Erdogan and foreign policy"
Mehmet Ocaktan notes the change of foreign policy rhetoric with the new leadership in Islamic-intellectual Yeni Safak (11/25): "AKP leader Tayyip Erdogan has brought about a revolutionary change on foreign policy issues. On the Cyprus issue, for instance, we have seen only unrealistic approaches from Turkish politicians until Erdogan dared to express the rather revolutionary suggestion that EU membership, ESDI and Cyprus be considered as a package. Erdogan emphasizes the fact that no much we may oppose this kind of approach, the EU countries are drawing a direct link between Cyprus and Turkey's EU membership. Turkey should stop acting like an ostrich, Erdogan says, and pull its head out of the sand. This new approach amounts to a deep philosophical change in Turkish foreign policy, which has been built under conflict and mistrust. . And it demands a test of sincerity test both for Brussels and for certain power centers in Ankara."

"Listen to the Cypriots"
Erdal Guven noted in liberal-intellectual Radikal (11/24): "Denktas is certainly a part of the settlement process, but it would be wrong to reduce the entire Cyprus issue to the views of Denktas. State policy so far has caused the Cyprus issue to become Turkey's number one problem because the policy envisioned a Denktas-MFA-Military triangle. However, northern Cyprus has opposition parties, NGOs and unions, as well as media. It would be very wrong to ignore what these groups have to say, as previous Turkish governments have done. These groups are trying to express their support for a settlement and are asking that this historic opportunity not be missed."